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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/667,763

09/22/2003

Ray C. Wasielewski

DEP759NP

1366

27777

7590

10/16/2006

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EXAMINER

PHILOGENE, PEDRO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3733

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,763

Applicant(s)

WASIELEWSKI, RAY C.

Examiner

Pedro Philogene

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-12 and 20-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 13-19, 29-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-6, 13-19, 29-42, in the reply filed on 8/2/06 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 13-19, 29-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gustilo et al. (5,733,292).

With respect to claims 1, 13, 40, Gustilo et al disclose an instrumented prosthetic knee joint (100) comprising an articulating surface (156) a polymer layer at the articulating surface; as set forth in column 9, lines 55-57; a body (138) having curved contoured surface; a sensor array (600, 700) between the polymer layer and the curved contoured surface of the body; as best seen in FIGS.32-37, the sensor array being capable of generating a signal in response to pressure; the polymer layer overlying substantially all the sensor array; a first joint having a curved convex articulating surface a second joint having curved concave articulating surface for receiving the convex articulating surface of the first joint; as best seen in FIGS.27-29.

It is noted that Gustilo et al did not disclose a sensor array having a curved contour substantially following the curved contour of at least part of the curved

contoured surface of the body; as claimed by applicant. However, in column 17, lines 12-14, Gustilo et al disclose that the sensor can be made in other geometries.

Therefore, given the teaching of Gustilo et al., the curved contour configuration of applicant's sensor is nothing more than one of numerous configurations one of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing mating surfaces in the joint trial. See *In re Dailey*, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976).

With respect to claims 2-6, 14-19, 41-42, Gustilo et al discloses all the limitations; asset forth in column 15, lines 56-67, column 16, lines 1-67, column 17, lines 1-67, column 18, lines 1-54; and as best seen in FIGS.1-37.

With respect to claims 29-39, the method steps, as set forth, would have been obviously carried out in the operation of the device; asset forth above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5,197,488	3-1993	Kovacevic
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5,470,354	11-1995	Hershberger et al.
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272 - 4719. The fax phone

Art Unit: 3733

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Pedro Philogene
October 3, 2006


PEDRO PHILOGENE
PRIMARY EXAMINER